



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/068,685	02/05/2002	Dana W. Seniff	P48-1305-1	8778
7590	03/05/2004			
McCormick, Paulding & Huber City Place II 185 Asylum Street Hartford, CT 06103-3402			EXAMINER PRONE, JASON D	
			ART UNIT 3724	PAPER NUMBER 6
DATE MAILED: 03/05/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/068,685

Applicant(s)

SENIFF ET AL.

Examiner

Jason Prone

Art Unit

3724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

3. In regards to claim 1, the phrases "causing said blade to engage said carrier layer" and "separating a coating blanket from said coating blanket material along said lines of cut extending through said carrier layer" are unclear. On page 8 lines 1-3, the phrase "a graphic is generally cut into the coating blanket material by cutting through the flexible layer 24 completely without cutting into the carrier layer" appears to contradict the phrases from claim 1. It is unclear how the blade performs a cut that extends through the carrier layer and at the same time does not cut into the carrier layer.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan in view of Pilkington. Logan discloses the invention including providing

Art Unit: 3724

sheet-type work material (11) having a laminated construction wherein a layer of flexible material is coupled to a carrier layer of semi-rigid material (Fig. 7), providing a cutting apparatus (40) having a cutting surface (Fig. 3), a drive means for moving the work material relative to the cutting surface (14) in response to command signals generated by a controller coupled to the cutting apparatus (7), a cutter head positioned adjacent to the cutting surface for movement in response to the command signals (48), a cutting blade coupled to the cutter head (46), that the cutting blade is positionable between a non-working position wherein the cutting blade is located adjacent said work material (Fig. 1), and a working position wherein said cutting blade engages said work material (Fig. 3), programming the controller with graphic cutting data and carrier layer cutting data (Fig. 8), presenting the coating blanket material to the cutting apparatus such that the carrier layer engages the cutting surface (Fig. 2), causing the drive means to move the coating blanket material back and forth over the cutting surface in response to the command signals issued from the controller (Fig. 1), moving the cutter head and the cutting blade between said non-working and working positions to selectively cut through portions of said flexible layer in a single pass during a cutting operation (Fig. 1), causing the blade to make multiple cutting passes along lines of cut defined by command signals issued from the controller in accordance with the carrier layer cutting data (Fig. 1), thereby selectively cutting through portions of the carrier layer (Fig. 11a), removing the coating blanket material from the cutting apparatus (Fig. 12), separating a coating blanket from the coating blanket material along the lines of cut (Fig. 9), that the cutting apparatus includes a frame (2) and the cutting surface is defined by a roller coupled for

Art Unit: 3724

rotation to the frame (65), that the cutter head is movable along a longitudinal direction defined by the roller in response to the command signals issued from the controller (Fig. 1), wherein the step of causing the blade to engage the carrier layer further includes creating a plurality of first spaced apart slits extending through the carrier layer along a first pair of opposing edges which in part define the periphery of the coating blanket (19), a first pair of opposing edges being approximately perpendicular to a longitudinal axis defined by the roller (Fig. 11b), creating a plurality of second spaced apart slits extending through the carrier layer along a second pair of spaced apart opposing edges approximately parallel to the longitudinal axis and approximately perpendicular to the first pair of opposing edges (19), that the first and second pairs of opposing edges together define the periphery of the coating blanket (Fig. 9), that the second spaced apart slits allow the work material to overhang the roller as it is advanced thereover without the semi-rigid nature of the carrier layer causing the coating blanket to separate from the work material (Fig. 1), that the first pair of opposed edges each defining areal portions of the carrier sheet positioned between successive slits, and creating a plurality of second spaced apart slits further includes scoring the areal portions (Fig. 11b) but fails to disclose causing the blade to engage the carrier layer, moving the blade in accordance with command signals issued from the controller such that a tip portion thereof touches a reference surface located on the cutting apparatus, sensing the location of the tip portion and the blade upon touching the reference surface, storing the sensed location of the cutting blade and tip portion relative to the reference surface in the controller, adjusting an amount by which the tip portion of the cutting blade extends

Art Unit: 3724

into the work material in accordance with the sensed location. Pilkington teaches a blade engaging a carrier layer (Fig. 5A), moving the blade in accordance with command signals issued from the controller such that a tip portion thereof touches a reference surface located on the cutting apparatus, sensing the location of the tip portion and the blade upon touching the reference surface, storing the sensed location of the cutting blade and tip portion relative to the reference surface in the controller, adjusting an amount by which the tip portion of the cutting blade extends into the work material in accordance with the sensed location (Column 1 line 57- Column 2 line 27). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have provided Logan with the characteristics taught by Pilkington to allow for a more precise cut to take place.

6. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan in view of Pilkington as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Nelson. Logan and Pilkington disclose the invention but fail to disclose sensing the amount of pressure exerted by the cutting blade in a direction approximately normal to the work material, adjusting the pressure a desired amount to cut through the flexible layer in a single pass and into the carrier layer on each of the multiple cutting pass. Nelson teaches sensing the amount of pressure exerted by the cutting blade in a direction approximately normal to the work material, adjusting the pressure a desired amount to cut through the flexible layer in a single pass and into the carrier layer on each of the multiple cutting pass (Abstract). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at

Art Unit: 3724

the time of the invention, to have provided Logan in view of Pilkington with the characteristics taught by Nelson to allow for greater longevity of the cutting blade.

***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Prone whose telephone number is 703-605-4287. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00, Mon - (every other) Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan N. Shoap can be reached on 703-308-1082. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 10/068,685

Page 7

Art Unit: 3724

A handwritten signature, possibly reading 'JP', in cursive script.

JP

March 3, 2004

A handwritten signature, possibly reading 'Allan N. Shoap', in cursive script.

Allan N. Shoap  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Group 3700